

MAJOR CLUBS LIKELY TO DISREGARD LIMIT

Will Retain Ball Players to Keep Them Away From Federals.

It is being whispered in American league circles, and has been announced by at least one National league manager, that the "big shows" will not regard the twenty-five-man rule this summer, writes E. A. Batchelor in the Detroit Free Press.

George T. Stallings of the Boston Braves was the first man to drop the hint that such a plan was proposed. George is authoritative for the statement that his league will pay absolutely no attention to any limit this year, but will permit club owners to hang on to all the men they care to pay.

This is aimed at the Federals, the idea being not to turn away players who might be secured by the "outlaws." Of course, not many big leaguers are let go entirely once they sign up, but there are many men who would jump to the Federals rather than accept a minor league assignment, and who would be perfectly content to sit on the bench all summer in select society just as long as their checks arrived every first and fifteenth.

President Navin of the Detroit club has heard nothing official regarding the American league's policy in this respect. He says, however, that he would not be surprised to see the limit disregarded so that players might be kept out of the hands of the Federals.

Some Could Be Spared.

"There will be some men taken south by every big league club whom we would be very glad to let the Federals have," said Mr. Navin. "In fact, judging by some of the recruits who have tried to fool me, we couldn't find a more effective measure of fighting the 'outlaws' than to wish a few of these fellows on their way."

It is almost a certainty that the Federal league will have to alter its avowed policy in one respect if it intends to keep on doing business. This is in regard to paying all the money to the players themselves instead of to the minor league owners.

It was announced by the "outlaws" when they first began to make a noise that they would not buy anybody.

"We will give the men the money instead of the owners," said the Federals. "If we want a player, all we will have to do is to offer him a bonus and he will sign with us just as soon as his other contract runs out."

Some Advantages.

In some respects this plan is a good one, as it enables the athletes to reap the harvest instead of the magnates who exploit them. But on the other hand, the very existence of minor league ball depends on selling players.

It was announced not long ago by Secretary Barrell of the National Association of Professional Baseball leagues, that at least 75 per cent of the clubs in classes below AA fail to make money under present conditions.

Whatever may be said about the tremendous revenue accruing to the major league magnates, it cannot be denied that the majority of minor league clubs are supported by men who are real fans, and who back baseball because they like the game.

It is a matter of patriotism with many of these fellows. They want their towns to have baseball like that supported by a neighboring and rival settlement and are willing to go down into their jeans to help out.

Immense Sum Involved.

Even as it is, when the majors are turning over something like \$400,000 a year for players, it is a rare thing for the little circuits to make money, and if this source of revenue is cut away, it will be hard to find men sufficiently patriotic to back a ball team in a small town.

The result, if the Federals do not see the light, will be that the little leagues will be almost a thing of the past. With the disappearance of the small circuits, the crop of young ball players will fall off terribly and in time the colleges and sandlots will be about the only recruiting territory for the majors.

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FIELDER JONES EVER POPULAR IN REPORT

Every time some ball club is looking for a manager, just put down a little bet that Fielder Jones' name will be mentioned before the matter is settled. There are very few ball clubs in the major leagues with which this name has not been connected at one time or another and now it seems the Federal has caught the bait.

Fielder Jones has always been anxious to soak a little coin in a big league club, but it is not known how he will take to the Federal proposition. Last year he was declared a free agent by Comiskey and he should be a popular card in Brooklyn.

It was from the old Brooklyn National League team that the White Sox during the days of the National-American war.

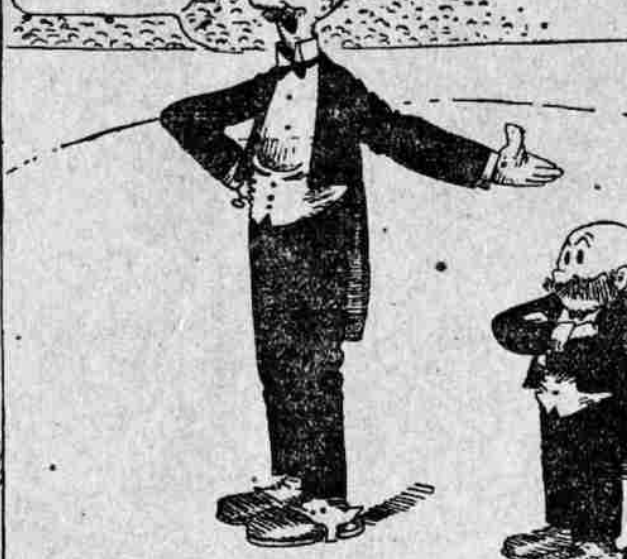
Would You Say This Was a Good Suggestion



Feb. 13, 1914.

Dear Mr. Foster:—
I am a drummer and of course for boys on the road always read Mutt and Jeff. I have been thinking that a suggestion may be welcome I offer the following idea:—
Have Mutt and Jeff working in a circus and have Jeff the elephant trainer and have Mutt lay on the ground and have Jeff make the elephant step over him. Now instead of the elephant stepping over Mutt have him step on Mutt's face. Hoping to see this in print I am yours truly,
Simon Steinman.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WHILE I AM LAY UPON MY BACK UPON THE GROUND MY LITTLE PARTNER WILL DRIVE AN ELEPHANT OVER MY BODY. THE BEAST WILL STEP OVER ME AS GENTLY AS A BABY.



BRING ON YOUR ELEPHANT

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'BIRDIE' CREE SENT TO BALTIMORE CLUB

Victim of Walter Johnson's Speed No Longer of Major Caliber.

"Birdie" Cree, not so long ago a mighty outfielder, who has been with the Yankees since 1908, has been released to the Baltimore club of the International league. Nobody in the major leagues wanted him. He is reported to have received a large offer from the Federal league, and it is quite possible he may yet jump to the outlaws rather than play with minors.

Jack Dunn, manager of the Orioles, is so anxious to hold Cree that, the story goes, he has offered him a salary of \$4000 a year.

The little outfielder began to show the effects of long service last season. He was a stocky man even in his prime, and in spite of his best efforts could not prevent the coming of "the base runner's burden" about his waist line.

In all probability, however, the chief factor in the decline of Cree was neither increasing weight nor age, but Walter Johnson. In 1911 Cree hit for .348 in 137 games, and he was going along at the same rate the next year until one day the speed man from Washington pitched a high fast ball which should have broken down and out, but failed to take the curve.

Cree was hit flush on the temple and was unconscious for several hours. He played no more baseball until late in the season, and then sharp-eyed "rooters" soon saw that he would never be as effective again in his batting. Whereas in the old days he stepped out to meet the ball, he began to draw away after the fashion of all men who have been hit, and can't forget it.

No one ever accused Cree of not being game, and he tried his best to conquer the falling, but was unable to get back to the old form. Last year he hit .271 in 147 games.

In build Cree is a pocket edition of Tom Barry, and when he met the ball fairly the fielders usually found it advisable to take to the fences.

DRINK OR TWO ALL RIGHT, SAYS O'DAY

"Hank" O'Day, manager of the Chicago Cubs, says he will not put the players under strict restrictions. He said he will not prohibit cigarette smoking.

"A player likes to smoke a cigarette after a game or before," he says. "There is no harm in it. I will object if he tries to smoke several boxes a day. That is poor for the wind, and if a player is not wise enough to know it, he will be told."

"About players drinking," he was asked, "I do not think there is any great harm in that if they do it moderately. I will not rule against a man taking a glass of beer or two after a game of ball. Of course, if a fellow begins to load up and does not keep in condition, then I will put a ban on the absorption of liquors."

Don't Want Cobb.

"I don't want Cobb for any price," was the declaration made by Connie Mack in regard to the annual freak arm of Charlie Griffith that the latter would purchase the Tiger demon for \$100,000.

Blow in the Head Responsible for Cree's Drop to the Minors

"Birdie" Cree, two years ago was one of the greatest fielders and hitters in the big leagues. One day he tried to out-guess Walter Johnson. The ball didn't take the expected curve and caught Cree full in the head. Since then he has been the victim of the fear said to be inevitable with a batsman once terribly hurt by a pitched ball. He has been sent to the minors.



FEDERALS WILL NAIL MAJOR YOUNGSTERS

Propose to Snap Up Rookies Turned Loose in Training Camps.

By Tribune Special Sport Service.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Another thing that has added to the panicky feeling of the organized baseball people is the discovery of the plan of the Federal league to grab off every rookie that the major leaguers intend to turn back to the minors in the course of, or at the end of, the training camp season.

In other years, when there was no competition, the organized majors turned back all recruits who did not show major league caliber. But they tied strings on all those who gave promise of a brilliant future with another year or two in the minors, and pulled

the rookies back to their clubs after they had developed.

This spring it is going to be something different. The Federal leaguers, it is said, will have agents stationed in all the towns where the organized major leaguers train, and will sign up at once all the rookies that the organized major leaguers intend to send back.

The Federal leaguers claim that in so doing they will be perfectly within their rights, and that they will not in any way break their rule which bars them from signing men under contract. When a recruit who has signed a major league contract is turned back to the minors, his major league contract is canceled, and until he signs up a contract with the minor league club to which he is sent, he is held only by the reserve clause.

To circumvent the Federals, the only thing the organized majors can do is to keep every promising recruit. Most likely they would do this, even though it increased their pay roll to huge proportions, but the national commission rules provide that no club can carry more than twenty-five players after the middle of May. It seems that the only way the organized persons can foil the Federals is to have that limit lifted immediately.

"Watch our lineup in 1915," advised Federal President Gilmore. "We'll have some new stars that will be developed in 1914."

Checkers

Black. At the commencement of a game Black men occupy squares numbered 1 to 12. The White men those numbered 21 to 32. Black always moves first.

Checkers and chess headquarters, E. M. C. A., State and First South streets. Address communications to D. A. Plimley, No. 4 Concord place, Salt Lake City.

February 22, 1914.

PROBLEM NO. 27.

Contributed by P. J. Lee.

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FEDERALS LOOK FOR BIG THINGS IN 1914

Three Cities in Present Circuit Are Likely to Be Dropped.

By Tribune Special Sport Service.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—The

league circuit in 1915 will be

and more compact than the

widely one with which the Fed-

eralists are likely to be

open the 1914 season.

President James A. Gilmore

Federals refuses to say defini-

what cities will be dropped in

which new ones will be taken

from one of the men close to

the Federal after the game

that Kansas City, Indianapolis

will be supplanted by Cleveland

and either New York or

Washington.

The Federals just now are

building stands that will seat

to 25,000. With the exception

of St. Louis, Brooklyn and

the stands being erected are

temporary structures. As little

as possible is being put into

no doubt because it is planned

for their next year.

As an Experiment.

"The 1914 season will be some-

an experimental year for us,"

more. "For many of us it will

ing fast; we are learning new

day, and already we have learn-

the horrible mistakes made by

sanitized baseball people.

"The fans are with us. They

we have made a mighty leap

against tremendous odds—aga-

ready under contract to the

would last up to now. But

to stay—and we'll stay a good

than others who have been

laughable.

Have Fast Youngsters.

"It is true that we have some

on our rosters, but they still

or three good years of base-

systems. Long before they are

to the discard many of the

of who will prove to be some-

their first year out.

"Had we cared to sign up

ball, we could have got the

at least 150, and among that

the greatest players in both

leagues. But when we started

announced that we would

player who was under contract

have adhered to that rule."

Think Hagerman a Factor.

Focusing his managerial eye on

Hagerman, Portland recruit,

Birmingham of the Naps is of

land, where he was sent to

is disgruntled with the prospect

of Carl Weinman of the Browns.

Stone Is Disgraced.

Dwight Stone, a short time